farmers of Karnataka, as extended to other States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The Government fixes each season the minimum support prices (MSPs) for major agricultural commodities including tur (arhar) and the MSP fixed for tur (arhar) for the 2000-2001 crop is Rs. 1200 per quintal. The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED), which is a designated Central Nodal Agency, is required to intervene in the market and undertake procurement of tur (arhar) whenever market prices fall below the MSP. The MSP fixed by the Government are uniform throughout the country.

Special recruitment under Agricultural Scientist Recruitment Board

643. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government took any decision for special recruitment under the Agricultural Scientist Recruitment Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the details regarding the special recruitment;

(d) whether Board has appointed any scientists without Ph. D. Degree; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has requested the Agricultural Scientists' Recruitment Board (ASRB) to conduct a special examination for filling up vacant posts of Scientists in the North-Eastern and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

(c) Not Applicable.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Since the minimum essential qualifications for the post of Scientist at the entry level is Post Graduate degree in the relevant discipline.